

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8766

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 3014

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BR

SUBJECT: REACTIONS TO PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN POLICY ADDRESS

REF: STATE 086289

1. PRESS COVERAGE CAST PRESIDENT'S SPEECH ALMOST ENTIRELY IN TERMS OF A LAST-DITCH APPEAL TO CONGRESS FOR AID TO VIET NAM WHICH CONGRESS WAS VIRTUALLY CERTAIN TO TURN DOWN (EXCEPT FOR HUMANITARIAN COMPONENTS), AND COMMENT HAS FOCUSED LESS ON SPEECH ITSELF THAN ON SITUATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. ON SPEECH ITSELF, PRESTIGIOUS O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO IN LEAD EDITORIAL APRIL 12 CALLED SPEECH "SURPRISING AND DISAPPOINTING IN THAT IT IN NO WAY REFORMULATED (THE SITUATION), NOR DID IT PROPOSE ANY RENEWAL OR ANY DRAMATIC EXAMINATION OF THE NATIONAL CONSCIENCE". IN ITS LEAD EDITORIAL SAME DAY, PROMINENT JORNAL DO BRASIL ACCENTED WHAT IT CALLED DIVISION BETWEEN U.S. EXECUTIVE AND CONGRESS, SAID SPEECH "IMPRESSED THE CONGRESSMEN AS LITTLE AS IT WOULD HAVE IF GIVEN BY NIXON", AND GLOOMILY CONCLUDED THAT FALL OF SAIGON TO COMMUNISTS WOULD BE SORT OF DIEN BIEN PHU FOR U.S.

2. ONLY COMMENT WE HAVE SEEN ON OTHER PARTS OF SPEECH CAME FROM ALBERTO DINES, FORMER EDITOR OF JORNAL DO BRASIL AND NOW U.S. CORRESPONDENT FOR ESTADO. DINES WROTE (APRIL 13), " . . . FORD SHOWED THAT AN INCORRIGIBLE MYOPIA PERSISTS WHEN HE MENTIONED  
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LATIN AMERICA: THE THREE MENTIONS OF THE HEMISPHERE WERE FORMAL,

TWO OF THEM BRIEF, REFERRING (ALSO) TO THE PEOPLES OF AFRICA AND ASIA, AND THE THIRD AND MOST UNFORTUNATE LABELING WAS OF HEMISPHERIC RELATIONS IN TERMS OF THE WORN-OUT 'NEW DIALOGUE' . . . IT MAY BE THAT KISSINGER DURING HIS VISIT WILL BE ABLE TO CORRECT SUCH A DISTORTED VISION; BUT IT MAY ALSO HAPPEN THAT DURING HIS VISIT . . . THE TRADITIONAL ERROR OF CONSIDERING THE HEMISPHERE AS A MONOLITHIC AND UNIFORM GROUP OF NATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO BE MADE . . .".

3. WITH THIS ONE EXCEPTION THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH HAS BEEN DISCUSSED ESSENTIALLY AS PART OF WHAT IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED TO BE THE END -- IN FAILURE -- OF U.S. EFFORTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. MORE BROADLY, COMMENT HAS DEPICTED THE U.S. AS SEVERELY TROUBLED ALSO IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND WITH REGARD TO DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL. THE SPECIFIC NOTION THAT THE U.S. HAS BEEN SHOWN TO BE AN UNCERTAIN ALLY HAS FOUND SOME ECHO, WITH ONE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL COMMENTING PRIVATELY TO EMBOFF THAT IF HE WERE ISRAELI, HE WOULD BE DEEPLY WORRIED. ARMY MINISTER FROTA, IN A CONVERSATION APRIL 17 WITH THE DATT, REFERRED TO THE HISTORIC BRAZILIAN TRUST IN THE US AS A SHIELD AGAINST COMMUNIST ENCROACHMENT, AND EXPRESSED WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS A GENERALIZED CONCERN AMONG THE BRAZILIAN OFFICER CROPS THAT THIS SHIELD MIGHT BE WEAKENING.

4. THUS, BRAZILIAN OFFICIALS WILL BE KEENLY INTERESTED IN WHAT THE SECRETARY HAS TO SAY ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, ALTHOUGH THEIR PRINCIPAL FOCUS WILL BE ON HOW THOSE DEVELOPMENTS AFFECT BRAZIL'S SITUATION, PARTICULARLY THE IMPACT ON US WILL AND LEADERSHIP. IN SUM, THEN, THE RECENT EVENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA HAVE NOT ALTERED THE ATMOSPHERE MATERIALLY BUT HAVE THE EFFECT OF ADDING A NEW ELEMENT TO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT. WHILE IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR THE SECRETARY, IN DISCUSSING THESE EVENTS WITH HIS HOSTS, TO REITERATE THE STRENGTH AND STEADFASTNESS OF THE US AS THE LEADER OF THE WEST AND A FRIEND AND SOURCE OF STABILITY FOR BRAZIL, IT WILL ALSO GIVE HIM AN OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE, IN A FRESH CONTEXT, THE CONCEPT OF INTERDEPENDENCE.

CRIMMINS

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